Development of Greenfield airports in Delhi and Mumbai

1365. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received recommendation for developing new Greenfield airports in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to set up such airports in many parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) State Government of Maharashtra has proposed to set up a new Greenfield airport at Navi Mumbai. Simulation study of conflict free operations for existing airport at Mumbai & proposed airport at Navi Mumbai has been undertaken by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), City & Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited (CIDCO) & Airports Authority of India (AAI). There is no proposal to develop a new Greenfield airport in Delhi.

(c) and (d) Government has accorded approval to the proposal of concerned State Governments for setting up Greenfield airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad. 'In principle' approval has also been granted for setting up a Greenfield airport at MOPA, Goa. Some state Governments from states such as Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab and Sikkim have proposed to set up new airports in Kannur, Pune, Ludhiana & Pakyong respectively.

Operation of Boeing aircraft

1366. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Boeing aircraft operates from Kolkata-Silchar in Barak Valley twice a week;

(b) whether it is proposed to handover the sector to private airlines, if the airlines is short of aircrafts;

(c) whether it is a fact that fare reduction in air operation is given to other States of the country except North-Eastern States; and

(d) if so, what is the reason for such disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services to different regions of the country. As such, all airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

(c) and (d) Government does not regulate airfares. Airlines charge their fares according to their commercial judgement. Indian Airlines' fares applicable in the North East are on an average approximately 6% lower than the rest of India. Promotional pricing is also offered on sectors to/ from Silchar by Indian Airlines.

Expansion of Delhi airport

1367. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to expand the Delhi airport;

(b) whether this would solve the problem of congestion at the airport; and

(c) how would Government tackle the problem of fog this winter and what steps the Ministry has taken to meet this problem this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Following steps have been taken up by Airports Authority of India to decongest Delhi Airport.

(1) Clearance Delivery Position is established to reduce congestion on tower frequency.

(2) Auto Release Procedures is introduced to make expeditious departures on standard routes.